

Appl. No. : 10/046,097
 Filed : August 22, 2003

REMARKS

This is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action mailed April 6, 2004. Applicant has hereby withdrawn Claims 26-28 and added new Claims 31-70. Thus, Claims 1-70 are pending in this application.

A summary document is included herein above with the status of all claims and the text of all pending claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner issued a restriction requirement and asserted that the claims are directed to four patentably distinct species. The Examiner identified the species as viscous torque actuator (species A), pneumatic actuator (species B), dry friction actuator (species C) and magnetorheological actuator (species D).

Applicant hereby elects species D with Claims 1-25 and 29-70 being readable thereon. Applicant would like to point out that it is believed that at least some of the claims are generic.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicant has added new Claims 31-70 to better vary the scope of protection and to protect other features of embodiments of the invention. The Examiner's consideration of the new Claims is respectfully requested.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant is submitting herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner's consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a good faith effort to respond to the outstanding Office Action. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's attorney, at the telephone number below, to resolve any such issue promptly. Also, please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 6-4-04

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